

JOHN

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Welcome to JOHN

Thank you for all the fine responses to the first issue. The interest and feedback was appreciated. I had some exciting times & travels in April and hope you enjoy some of the recaps included in this edition.

I was pleasantly surprised to receive from my sister, Nancy Holley two handwritten pages of her memories of our parents. Nancy captured in just a few words her love for Mom and Dad. Since we honor both Mothers and Fathers in May and June, I would be remiss not to include her thoughts in this issue.

Hannah Simpson Spencer's induction to the Steuben County Hall of Fame was attended by Christine and I in Bath, NY on April 22. While in New York, we also had an opportunity to go to Watertown, NY to see the Women in History Exhibit featuring Marietta Holley. These events are covered in more detail on the following pages, enjoy!

With the coming of summer, many Historical sites are beginning to prepare for the many summer visitors to these special places all over the USA. State, County, City & Town Historical Societies are filled with dedicated volunteers & staff to welcome each and everyone. I have included some information that hopefully will tweak the interest of families as they begin their summer vacations.

The Fresh Flowers this month features a very special rose.

JAH

My Mom

I have to write about my Mom, she was the most amazing person. She was full of joy and laughter. She always found the best in everyone. When my brother, John and I were in school, she always had our lunch ready. She would always go to our school functions. She was the best cook in the whole world, dinner was always on the table when my Dad came home from work.

Even if my Dad was a little guff at times, it didn't bother her. She loved Christmas and shopping. She also loved birthdays & always gave everyone a birthday dinner. After I left home and married, she was the best baby sitter. The kids loved her to come and sit with them because she was fun to be with. I probably didn't tell her how much I loved her but I am sure she knew. I miss my Mom, there are days when I wish I could talk to her one more time.

*This is how I feel about my Mom - June Holley
Love you Mom, Nancy*



June swept my Dad off his feet. She was a red headed beauty from Denver and my Dad's Mother called her a "floozy"! To her brother and sisters, she was always "June-a-belle".

My Dad

My Dad was a coal miner, he started in the coal mines at 16 years of age and never wanted to retire. He was sometimes a little grouchy with my brother, John and I, but we knew he cared about us.

He loved his beer, he was almost always there for dinner with us unless he worked nights. When he would get paid, he would buy my brother, John and myself a small sack of candy, we always looked forward to it.

He wasn't much for holidays, but tried to take part anyway. He loved Mom even if he didn't show it at times. He was a very smart man. He only went to the 8th grade in school, but he could fix anything.

After he had to retire, he worked in his garden and kept his yard beautiful.

He wasn't happy when he was in a wheel chair and couldn't do the things he wanted to do. I am so glad I spent his last months of life with him. I learned a lot from him in those months.

I hope he knew how much I loved him even if I didn't say it.

I loved my Dad - John Holley.



**Taken in 1937
The year June and John were
married.**



Four Honored in Steuben County Hall of Fame Ceremony

Four people who enhanced Steuben County throughout their lives were posthumously inducted into the Steuben County Hall of Fame during a ceremony at the First Presbyterian Church in Bath, NY on April 22, 2017. The inductees included Jasper medical practitioner and Alfred University graduate Hannah Simpson Spencer; U.S. Air Force veteran, family doctor and county Coroner Dr. Roy W. Robinson; along with Betty and Patrick Monahan, who were both long-devoted to the Bath VA.

Robin K. Lattimer, Steuben County Representative served as Master of Ceremonies and welcomed the nominators and acceptors as well as family and friends of the inductees.

Hannah Simpson Spencer's three-time generational niece Christine Holley made the journey from New Mexico to accept Hannah's award.

You can view her acceptance remarks on YouTube via this link:

<https://youtu.be/YSVtDcQdsfY>

Marietta Holley brings over 100 Vistors into the JCHS Museum

In honor of the 100th Anniversary of women's suffrage in NYS, the JCHS worked with the American Association of University Women and WPBS - DT to celebrate the suffragette, author, and famed American humorist: Marietta Holley (1836 - 1926) on March 21st. Often referred to as the female Mark Twain, Holley sold millions of novels that used humor and wit to highlight gender inequalities.

Local journalist, historian and performance artist, Felicity Hallanan, led the evening with a series of readings across Marietta Holley's works; bringing to life the feeling of an era when the debate over women's suffrage was a hot topic of conversation.

Following Hallanan's well executed and comedic performance was a series of Betsy Bobbit readings performed by members of the crowd. "Holley's works are really meant to be read aloud, as you can actually appreciate how truly humorous, if not corny, the dialect is," says Ms. Hallanan.

The event brought in a whopping 103 visitors, who enjoyed a Victorian tea styled layout of chicken and egg salad along with Devonshire cream and scones.

The exhibit will continue to be on display at the Museum though June.

A special shout out is in order for the fine work that Jordan B. Walker, Executive Director of the Museum did to complete this really cool display.



Local Historical Societies, Museums, & Genealogical Societies are located all over the US

A **historical society** is an organization dedicated to preserving, collecting, researching, and interpreting historical information or items. Originally, these societies were created as a way to help future generations understand their heritage.

Historical societies vary in specialization, with focuses ranging from specific geographical areas such as counties or towns, universities, railways, ethnic and religious groups, to genealogy, pioneer history, and the preservation of antiques or historic buildings. Often, many of these organizations ensure that historic architecture is preserved/restored and period houses are maintained for tours open to the public.

Publishing journals and maintaining museums is another way in which the historical societies showcase their collections, research, and field of study. For record keeping and educational purposes, many of the transactions and papers read at society meetings have been documented and published.

Support from outside sources and contributors has always played an important role in the life of historical societies. Various methods such as donations, memberships, annual funds, corporate giving, internships, volunteering, and renting specific historic spaces are continuing to help keep these nonprofit societies alive and growing.

While historical societies originate in different ways, usually there is a small group of people who lay down the foundation for the formal organization of the society. Such things as statement of purpose, the organizational meeting, the constitution and bylaws, incorporation, corporate title, requirements, reviewing, recommendations, and petitioning are all elements of the highly involved creation of charting a historical society.

JAH: Over the last several years, I have had the opportunity to visit many, many of these Societies across the US. In doing my family research, I continue to be impressed with all the staff and volunteers who spend so much time in preserving family histories and historic architecture. It is so easy to find a Society you may want to visit. An Internet search is fast and will often get you to the Society Website for a quick look at what they have to offer. Don't be discouraged if the information is dated. I have found some very active websites and some that need work. But in the end you cannot be disappointed with an actual site visit and you might even find a long lost relative!

FRESH FLOWERS



"Morning Dew"

"This world that we are living in is mighty hard to beat. You get a thorn with every Rose, but aren't those Roses sweet"!

Dr. Murray Banks ©1952